



STEVE COOLEY
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April 4, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) FOR
THE VERTICAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM (VPP) - FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2005-06
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the District Attorney, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to accept grant funds from OES for the VPP in the amount \$678,017 for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The VPP includes the Major Narcotics Vendors Prosecution (MNVP) and Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution (EAVP) Programs.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney, or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as Project Director and to sign and approve revisions to the Grant Award Agreement that do not affect the net County cost of the Agreement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded grant funding from OES in the amount of \$678,017 for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 for the VPP. This block grant was established in the California State Budget Act of 2003-2004 and consolidated various vertical prosecution programs. The VPP provides grant funding for the Major Narcotic Vendors and Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution Programs.

Board authorization is required to accept the grant award for this fiscal year.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:

This program directly supports the District Attorney's core mission to vigorously prosecute felony crime throughout the County of Los Angeles. Acceptance of the grant award supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4, Fiscal Responsibility by securing an available revenue source at the State level.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The total estimated cost of this grant program for FY 2005-2006 is \$706,792 which includes 3.0 Deputy District Attorneys (DDA) for the MNVP Program and 1.0 DDA for the EAVP Program. OES has awarded \$678,017 to the District Attorney's Office to partially offset the cost of the grant program. The District Attorney's Office will absorb the remaining estimated cost of \$28,775.

Funding for this grant program has been included in the department's FY 2005-2006 budget.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs being absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In 1984 the Legislature added the vertical prosecution of Major Narcotic Vendors to the list of priority prosecution programs and also authorized funding for the vertical prosecution of Elder Abuse. Vertical prosecution, reduced caseloads, and a staff of trained and experienced prosecutors promote more effective prosecution as well as increased conviction rates and increased victim satisfaction with the criminal justice process. The following is based on program reports through December 31, 2005:

Fiscal Year	Number of defendants with new cases		Number of cases accepted by Program		Number of cases completed through sentencing	
	EAVP	MNVP	EAVP	MNVP	EAVP	MNVP
2003-04	13	90	6	41	2	41
2004-05	19	91	12	51	6	51
2005-06*	23	51	19	46	9	34

*thru 12/31/05

Los Angeles County's large, diverse population and immense geographic size present numerous obstacles to the already daunting task of prosecuting major narcotic vendors and elder abuse crimes. Locating and maintaining contact with witnesses and victims is often difficult due to the county's size and mobile population. The scope and number of law enforcement, government and social service agencies present additional barriers to effective coordination with other professionals involved in these cases. Prosecuting these crimes poses specific challenges. Numerous special laws apply to these vertical prosecutions, requiring highly trained and experienced specially assigned prosecutors.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

This program does not propose attorney staff augmentation. Therefore, the District Attorney's Office is not subject to the Board Motion of December 15, 1998, requiring clearance with the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Departments.

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CONCLUSION:

Following Board authorization to accept the grant award for this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two (2) copies of the adopted Board Letter containing original signatures to Sheri Ramirez-Garcia, Contracts and Grants Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Ramirez-Garcia at (213) 202-7667 or via e-mail at shramire@lacountyda.org.

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

srg:mmmb

Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office
Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding \$100,000

Department: Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Grant Project Title and Description

The Vertical Prosecution Program (VPP) block grant was established in the California State Budget Act of FY 2003-04 and consolidated vertical prosecution programs to support intensified efforts by District Attorney Offices statewide. The VPP will seek justice through the enhanced prosecution of Major Narcotic Vendors and Elder Abuse crimes. The objective is to stem the epidemic of serious crime in Los Angeles County through multi-agency efforts that include cooperation with law enforcement, vigorous prosecution and victim assistance. The specially assigned vertical prosecutors will enhance the prosecution of these crimes and ensure that these serious cases and their vulnerable victims receive the utmost attention and effort, in order to protect the community.

Funding Agency
Office of Emergency Services

Program (Fed. Grant # /State Bill or Code #)
VB05030190

Grant Acceptance Deadline

Total Amount of Grant Funding: \$678,017

County Match: \$0

Grant Period: 2005-2006

Begin Date: July 1, 2005

End Date: June 30, 2006

Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant: Full Time: MNVP 3; EAVP 1 **Part Time:** 0

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program? Yes ☒ No ☐

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? Yes ☒ No ☐

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires? Yes ☐ No ☒

If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

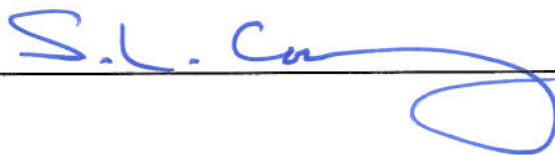
a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services Yes ☐ No ☒

b). Identify other revenue sources Yes ☐ No ☒
(Describe) _____

c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant. Yes ☒ No ☐

Impact of additional personnel on existing space: None.

Department Head Signature



Date

3/27/06